

**AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW: Foster Care Case File Findings**  
**State: California**  
**Report Period Under Review: April 1, 2003 - September 30, 2003 (2003B)**

<b>Data Element</b>	<b>Paper and AFCARS File Match</b>	<b>Paper and AFCARS File Do Not Match</b>	<b>Questionable</b>	<b>Comments/Notes</b>
#5 Most Recent Periodic Review Date	53	4	3	Not found = 1
#6 Child Birth Date	61	0		
#7 Child Sex  1 = Male 2 = Female	61	0		
#8 Child Race	56	3		Not found: 2
#9 Child Hispanic Origin  1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	36	17		Not found: 8  The majority of the error cases were reported to AFCARS as “unable to determine,” but the reviewers found the information.  In the records where the reviewers could not verify the information most of the AFCARS records indicated “unable to determine.”
#10 Has Child Been Diagnosed with Disability?	53	8		In the majority of the error cases the AFCARS indicated “no” and the reviewers indicated “yes.”  One error case was marked as “yes” in AFCARS, but the reviewer found no diagnosed disabilities that would be applicable for this element.
#11 Mental Retardation	61	0		
#12 Visually/Hearing Impaired	59	2		

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#13 Physically Disabled	61	0		
#14 Emotionally Disturbed	49	12		In general, the errors were due to conditions being mapped to the wrong category.
#15 Other Diagnosed Condition	50	11		In general, the errors were due to conditions being mapped to the wrong category.
#16 Has Child Ever Been Adopted?  1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	26	28	2	Not found: 5  In the majority of the error cases, the response in AFCARS was “unable to determine” and the reviewer was able to determine whether the child had been previously adopted or not.
#17 Age at Previous Adoption  0 = Not Applicable 1 = less than 2 years old 2 = 2-5 years old 3 = 6-12 years old 4 = 13 years or older 5 = Unable to Determine	55	4		Not found: 2
#18 Date of First Removal from Home	38	22		Not found: 1  In several of the error cases, the date of first removal found by the reviewer was earlier than the date reported in AFCARS. In some instances, the difference was several years.
#19 Total Number of Removals from Home	46	12	2	Not found: 1  In many of the error cases, the number of

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				removals found by the reviewers was fewer than the number reported in AFCARS.
#20 Date of Discharge from Previous Episode	41	17	2	Not found: 1  In many of the error cases, there was not a date of prior discharge because the child had only one removal episode.
#21 Date of Latest Removal	38	20	3	Many of the errors were with regard to how many removals the child actually had experienced.
#23 Date of Placement in Current Setting	44	15	1	Not found = 1
#24 Number of Previous Placement Settings in This Episode	29	26	3	Not found = 3  In the majority of the error cases, the number of placements was greater than what was reported in AFCARS.
#25 Manner of Removal From Home for This Episode  1 = Voluntary 2 = Court Ordered 3 = Not Yet Determined	60	1		
#26 Physical Abuse	54	6	1	
#27 Sexual Abuse	58	2	1	
#28 Neglect	50	10	1	
#29 Parent Alcohol Abuse	57	3	1	

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#30 Parent Drug Abuse	30	30	1	
#31 Child Alcohol Abuse	58	2	1	
#32 Child Drug Abuse	59	1	1	
#33 Child Disability	60	0	1	
#34 Child's Behavior Problem	53	7	1	
#35 Death of Parent	58	2	1	
#36 Incarceration of Parent	52	8	1	
#37 Caretaker Inability to Cope	53	6	1	Not found: 1
#38 Abandonment	51	3	1	
#39 Relinquishment	61	0		
#40 Inadequate Housing	50	10	1	
#41 Current Placement Setting  1 = Pre-Adoptive Home 2 = Foster Family Home (Relative) 3 = Foster Family Home (Non-Relative) 4 = Group Home 5 = Institution 6 = Supervised Independent Living 7 = Runaway	55	3	2	Not found: 1

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8 = Trial Home Visit				
#42 Out of State Placement	61	0		
#43 Most Recent Case Plan Goal  1 = Reunify with Parent(s) or Principal Caretaker(s) 2 = Live with Other Relative(s) 3 = Adoption 4 = Long Term Foster Care 5 = Emancipation 6 = Guardianship 7 = Case Plan Goal Not Yet Established	31	28	2	<p>There were ten records with a goal of “reunify” in the AFCARS file, but the reviewer indicated that the goal had not been updated. The goals should have been “long-term foster care,” (five cases) “adoption,” (three cases) and “live with other relative” (two cases).</p> <p>There were six records reported to AFCARS as “case plan goal not yet established.” At least two of these had been children in care for more than a year. Reviewers found case plan goals for all of these records.</p> <p>There were two records with a goal reported to AFCARS as “long term foster care” and in one case the goal had changed to adoption and the other to reunification.</p>
#44 Caretaker Family Structure  1 = Married Couple 2 = Unmarried Couple 3 = Single Female 4 = Single Male 5 = Unable to Determine	24	32	2	<p>Not found: 3</p> <p>In the majority of the cases marked in error, the response in AFCARS was “unable to determine.” In many instances, the reviewers were able to determine the family structure of the individuals from which the child was removed.</p>
#45 1 <sup>st</sup> Primary Caretaker's Birth Year	27	30	1	Not found: 3

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				In the majority of the cases marked in error, the response in AFCARS was blank. In many instances the reviewers were able to determine the dates of birth of family members from which the child was removed.
#46 2 <sup>nd</sup> Primary Caretaker's Birth Year	47	10	3	Not found: 1  In the majority of the cases marked in error, the response in AFCARS was blank. In many instances the reviewers were able to determine the dates of birth of family members from which the child was removed.
#47 Mother's Date of TPR	51	10		In all of the error cases, the AFCARS field was blank and the reviewer found TPR dates.
#48 Father's Date of TPR	52	9		In all of the error cases, the AFCARS field was blank and the reviewer found TPR dates.
#49 Foster Family Structure  0 = Not Applicable 1 = Married Couple 2 = Unmarried Couple 3 = Single Female 4 = Single Male	48	12		Not found: 1  In many of the error cases, the data was missing in AFCARS, but in many instances the reviewer found the marital status of the foster parents.
#50 1 <sup>st</sup> Foster Caretaker's Birth Year	38	20		Not found: 3  The date of birth information was missing in AFCARS even though the children were in family foster home settings.
#51 2 <sup>nd</sup> Foster Caretaker's Birth Year	47	10	2	Not found: 2

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				The error records generally indicated that the child was in a family foster home and either the data reported in AFCARS or found by the reviewer indicated the foster family structure was a “married” or “unmarried couple.”
#52 1 <sup>st</sup> Foster Caretaker's Race	37	18		Not found: 6  The race information was missing in AFCARS even though the children were in family foster home settings.
#53 1 <sup>st</sup> Foster Caretaker's Hispanic Origin	36	20		Not found: 5  The Hispanic information was missing in AFCARS even though the children were in family foster home settings.
#54 2 <sup>nd</sup> Foster Caretaker's Race	48	6	4	Not found: 3
#55 2 <sup>nd</sup> Foster Caretaker's Hispanic Origin	49	8	3	Not found: 1
#56 Date of Discharge	54	7		One of the cases marked as an error had a date of discharge after the end of the report period.  In one case, the reviewer indicated the child discharged from care in 2000.  In a third case, the AFCARS indicates the child was still in care and the reviewer indicated the child was discharged in August.

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				<p>In one error case, the date reported to AFCARS reflects the date of the periodic review. The child was on a “trial home visit” and the dependency order was not dismissed until two months later.</p> <p>Another record indicated emancipation as a reason for discharge and the AFCARS was blank.</p> <p>The reviewer indicated the child was placed with parents while still in the care and placement responsibility of the agency.</p>
#58 Reason for Discharge  0 = Not Applicable 1 = Reunification with Parent(s) or Primary Caretaker(s) 2 = Living with Other Relative(s) 3 = Adoption 4 = Emancipation 5 = Guardianship 6 = Transfer to Another Agency 7 = Runaway 8 = Death of Child	57	4		
#59 Title IVE Foster Care #60 Title IVE Adoption				



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#61 Title IVA AFDC #62 Title IVD Child Support #63 Title XIX Medicaid #64 SSI #65 None of the Above #66 Monthly Amount				

# **AFCARS ASSESSMENT REVIEW: Adoption Case File Findings**

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<b>AFCARS Element</b>	<b>Data In AFCARS Matches Case File</b>	<b>Data In AFCARS Does Not Match Paper File</b>	<b>Questionable</b>	<b>Comments</b>
#4 State Agency Involvement  1 = Yes 2 = No	25	0		
#5 Child Date of Birth	25	0		
#6 Child Sex  1 = Male 2 = Female	25	0		
#7 Child Race  a. American Indian or Alaska Native b. Asian c. Black or African American d. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander e. White f. Unable to Determine	24	0		Not found = 1
#8 Child Hispanic Origin  1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	25	0		
#9 Has Agency Determined Special Needs	25	0		

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AFCARS Element	Data In AFCARS Matches Case File	Data In AFCARS Does Not Match Paper File	Questionable	Comments
#10 Primary Basis for Determining Special Needs  0 = Not Applicable 1 = Racial/Original Background 2 = Age 3 = Membership in a Sibling Group 4 = Medical Conditions or Mental, Physical or Emotional Disabilities 5 = Other	25			<p>There were four records reported to AFCARS with the primary basis as “age.” The reviewers noted emotional/behavioral problems in three records, adverse parental background in one, and sibling group in another.</p> <p>There was one record with “other” reported to AFCARS, but the reviewer found the following: child was 10 years old, part of a sibling group and had diagnosed disabilities.</p> <p>One record indicated “other” in AFCARS, but the reviewer noted “sibling group” and prenatal exposure as other conditions.</p> <p>One record indicated in AFCARS the primary basis of “sibling group.” The reviewer noted that drug exposure and developmental delays were also present.</p>
#11 Mental Retardation	25			
#12 Visually/Hearing Impaired	25			
#13 Physically Disabled	25			
#14 Emotionally Disturbed	25			
#15 Other Diagnosed Condition	25			
#16 Mother's Birth Year	23	2		
#17 Father's Birth Year	19	4		Not found = 2

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#18 Mother Married at Time of Birth  1 = Yes 2 = No 3 = Unable to Determine	17	6		Not found = 2  In five cases the reviewer found that the mother was not married at the time of the child's birth and the answer in AFCARS was "yes."  One record indicated "unable to determine" and the reviewer found that the mother was not married at the time of the child's birth.
#19 Date of Mother's TPR	17	4	4	In one of the error cases, the AFCARS report was blank and the reviewer found dates of TPR.  In one record marked as an error, the reviewer indicated that the TPR was appealed and the date reported as the TPR date was not the actual date.  In one case, the date provided by the reviewer was two months later than the date reported in AFCARS.  In three of the cases marked as questionable, the reviewer indicated the date reported in AFCARS was the "filed date." In one instance, the date provided by the reviewer as the court date was two days prior to the filed date reported in AFCARS.  In the other questionable case, the date

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				indicated by the reviewer as the filed date was 18 days later than the date reported in AFCARS.
#20 Date of Father's TPR	17	4	4	<p>In one of the error cases, the AFCARS report was blank and the reviewer found dates of TPR.</p> <p>In one record marked as an error, the reviewer indicated that the TPR was appealed and the date reported as the TPR date was not the actual date.</p> <p>In one case, the date provided by the reviewer was two months later than the date reported in AFCARS.</p> <p>In three of the cases marked as questionable, the reviewer indicated the date reported in AFCARS was the "filed date." In one instance, the date provided by the reviewer as the court date was two days prior to the filed date reported in AFCARS.</p> <p>In the other questionable case, no data was reported in AFCARS and the reviewer did not provide any additional information.</p>
#21 Date Adoption Legalized	25	0		
#22 Adoptive Family Structure	23	2		The error cases were missing data in the AFCARS report. In one instance, the reviewer

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1 = Married Couple 2 = Unmarried Couple 3 = Single Female 4 = Single Male				noted the adoptive parents were a same sex couple.
#23 Adoptive Mother's Year of Birth	23	2		The error cases were missing data in the AFCARS report. In one instance, the reviewer noted the adoptive parents were a same sex couple.
#24 Adoptive Father's Year of Birth	23	2		The error cases were missing data in the AFCARS report. In one instance, the reviewer noted the adoptive parents were a same sex couple.
#25 Adoptive Mother's Race	21	1	1	Not found = 2
#26 Adoptive Mother's Hispanic Origin	21	1		Not found = 3
#27 Adoptive Father's Race	22	1		Not found = 2
#28 Adoptive Father's Hispanic Origin	22	2		Not found = 1
#29 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child - Stepparent	25	0		
#30 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child - Other Relative	25	0		
#31 Relationship of Adoptive Parent to Child - Foster Parent	23	2		The error cases were due to more than one relationship being applicable.
#32 Relationship of	23	2		The error cases were due to more than one

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Adoptive Parent to Child - Other Non-Relative				relationship being applicable.
#33 Child Was Placed from  1 = Within State 2 = Another State 3 = Another Country	25	0		
#34 Child Was Placed by  1 = Public Agency 2 = Private Agency 3 = Tribal Agency 4 = Independent Person 5 = Birth Parent	25	0		
#35 Receiving Monthly Subsidy	25	0		
#36 Monthly Amount	0	25		One reviewer provided a note that in the file there was a print out of the "AFCARS Navigation Tool" and the amount that was included on it for this element was the amount the reviewer found in the file, not the amount reported to AFCARS.
#37 Adoption Assistance	21	4		In each of the error cases the AFCARS data indicated "no" and the reviewer indicated "yes."